



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

**Civil Law Division**

09/29632

21 May 2010

Ms Julie Dennett  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

**Additional Estimates February 2010, Attorney-General's Department – Question on Notice 16**

At the Additional Estimates hearing of 8 February 2010, Senator Barnett asked that responses received from the various law enforcement agencies to letters sent by the former Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus, on 4 February 2009 be tabled. An interim response to Question on Notice 16 was tabled on 15 March 2010. It noted that the Department was writing to the recipients of the 4 February 2009 letter and was seeking their views on providing a copy of their response to the Committee. I am writing to provide an updated Departmental response to the Committee.

The Department is now in a position to table the responses from the Victorian Minister of Police and the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police. It has also recently contacted officials in the respective State and Territory agencies to expedite the process of receiving views on providing copies of responses to the Committee. The Department will continue to update the Committee as, and when, information is received from other jurisdictions.

The action officer for this matter is Tara Cheyne who can be contacted on (02) 6141 2740.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kym Duggan'.

Kym Duggan  
Acting First Assistant Secretary  
Civil Law Division

Telephone: 02 6141 3620  
Facsimile: 02 6141 3674  
E-mail: [kym.duggan@ag.gov.au](mailto:kym.duggan@ag.gov.au)



## Minister for Police and Emergency Services

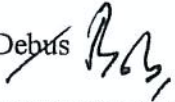
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121 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
GPO Box 4356  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001  
Telephone: (03) 8684 0900  
Facsimile: (03) 8684 0910  
DX 210077

Our Ref: MC/09/1019

4 JUN 2009

The Honourable Bob Debus  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Debus 

### **ENFORCEMENT OF CLASSIFICATION LAWS**

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 February 2009. (Your ref: 08/26558)

I note that the Chief Commissioner of Police responded to you on 24 April 2009 regarding this matter.

Although I am cognisant of the matters raised in your letter, I can appreciate the Chief Commissioner's view that increased policing effort should not be directed at the enforcement of classification laws at this point.

The creation of an Industry Crime Theme Desk in Victoria will improve the co-ordination of police efforts in dealing with this issue by establishing a central point of contact and by developing guidelines for regional police who respond to complaints of this nature.

I thank you for raising this matter and trust you will appreciate Victoria's perspective.

Yours sincerely



**Bob Cameron MP**  
Minister for Police & Emergency Services



24 APR 2009

VICTORIA POLICE

Chief Commissioner's Office

Victoria Police Centre  
637 Flinders Street  
Melbourne 3005  
Victoria Australia  
Telephone [61 3] 9247 6890  
Facsimile [61 3] 9247 6869

Our Ref: CRB 49186/07

P.O. Box 415  
Melbourne 3005  
Victoria Australia

The Hon. Bob Debus  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Parliament house  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

**Compliance by retailers and distributors with classification enforcement laws**

In April 2007, Victoria Police undertook an intelligence assessment of this issue and established that the number of reported breaches of the Act is very low, with only 31 having been reported for the previous 3 years.

Victoria Police produces an annual Strategic Crime Report which articulates our organisational priorities in terms of crime prevention, intelligence and enforcement. On current intelligence, the enforcement of classification laws is not considered an area in respect of which policing activities should be increased.

A central Industry Crime Theme Desk (ICTD) has been established to receive and assess reported breaches of classification legislation and forward to the relevant police region for investigation. The ICTD has developed guidelines for regional police who receive these complaints and will continue to receive intelligence, monitor trends and act as a central point of contact.

Should future intelligence suggest a connection between classification non-compliance and organised crime, our policing priorities will be reviewed and our strategic focus will be amended accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Overland APM  
Chief Commissioner

21/04/09.